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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I used WordPerfect from 1987 through 2001 because it was by far the best word processing software available. Beginning sometime in the early to mid-90's, each time I bought a new computer, it came with Microsoft Word. Each time I bought a new computer, I asked if the vendor would send me the computer without Word and give me a small decrease in price. The sales people always said they could not do this. So, I got a computer with Word, and bought WordPerfect to put on it. Even though I tried Microsoft Word each time I bought a new computer, since the computer always had Word installed, I never used it because it was obviously inferior to WordPerfect.

However, most other people, particularly corporations who watched their budgets, use the "free" Word program. Eventually, because it was "free", Word became the dominant word processing software. Then Microsoft began charging for it.

Last year my company was purchased by a company that insisted that everyone use the same word processing software. As a result, I now accomplish about 20% less on the average when using word processing because Word is not capable of easily doing what WordPerfect can do seamlessly. Examples: 1. When you copy something from one Word document in say, Arial font, into another Word document with Arial Font, Word will change the font on you. You then have to highlight and change the font back to what it should be. 2. Paragraph numbering and bullets are so erratic in Word, that no one uses these functions - with word, we regress back to the 80's for automatic paragraph numbering. For example, when you insert a section in front of a newly numbered paragraph with nothing next to it, Word will attach it to the previous paragraph. When you save a document and reopen it, Word will often renumber the paragraphs in some bizarre way. 3. Word has many automatic functions that change things in the text, without your asking, and these are nearly impossible to turn off. 4. Word has inferior lists of symbols.

The above are just a few of the problems with Word. Yet it is the dominant Word processor, not because it is better, but because of clear anti-trust activity.

I believe that if the Government would do something so WordPerfect or some other word processor could really compete fairly against Microsoft, the productivity of this country would increase about 10%.

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